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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1905.

None ever truly and ingeniously
sought for the truth but they found it.

Mr. Slem's Discrepancy.

We print to-day a communication from
Chairman Slem, of the Republican
party, in which he undertakes to estab-
lish the claim made by him that there
was a discrepancy of \$500,000 in the
statement of Mr. Swanson and that of
Secretary Brent, concerning the sums
appropriated for schools in 1904.

The fact is that Mr. Slem on the 20th
of September wrote a letter to Mr. Brent,
asking him to explain an apparent
discrepancy in the Virginia School Report
of 1902-1903. In the general summary the
entire cost of the public school system
for 1903 was set down as amounting to
\$2,157,361.50. In table No. 5 of the report,
the total expenditure for schools in
cities, towns and counties was set down
as amounting to \$1,938,146.53. Mr. Brent
promptly informed Mr. Slem that there
was no discrepancy, as table No. 5
showed only a part of the expenditure for
school purposes, that is, certain amounts
paid out in each school division for
specific purposes. He also informed Mr.
Slem that the amount expended in this
way in 1903-1904, was \$1,990,963.25. In other
words, this is the amount that will ap-
pear in table No. 5 for that year, and
does not include the expenses of the
central office, the summer normal schools,
the schools for the deaf, dumb and blind
and other just charges against the public
school fund, not to mention the appropria-
tions for the University of Virginia,
the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
the Virginia Military Institute. Mr.
Brent informed Mr. Slem that if all
these items were included, Mr. Swanson
had understated the current expenses
for public education.

But in spite of that explanation Mr.
Slem caused to be printed a circular in
which he insisted upon the discrepancy.
We called attention to this and Mr.
Slem's defense is that his communication
was sent to the News Leader before he
received Mr. Brent's letter of explana-
tion. Of course, we did not know this
when we took him to task, but, granting
that to be true, Mr. Slem's article did
not appear in the public print until
several days after he had received Mr.
Brent's reply, and he could easily have
had the publication withheld until he
could revise it, but, having Mr. Brent's
letter in hand, he allowed the circular
to be printed and so far as we know,
he never offered to make any correction
after the circular had appeared. Of
course there was no intention to mis-
lead. We are sure that Mr. Swanson
intended to include all appropriations for
1904, those for higher institutions, as well
as those for the common schools and, as
Mr. Brent stated, they were estimates.

We frankly admit, however, that the
comparison with 1885, as it now turns
out, was not fair, as the amount credited
to that year did not include the amount
appropriated to public institutions. We
frankly and cheerfully make that cor-
rection and now at Mr. Slem's request
we give the figures for both years in full.

1885.

For public free schools \$1,421,536.60
proper 105,000.00
For higher institutions, 105,000.00
Totals \$1,526,536.60

1904.

For public free schools \$2,147,472.1
proper 401,750.00
For higher institutions, 401,750.00
Totals \$2,549,222.1

But while an unintentional mistake
was made in the original comparisons,
which we greatly regret, it will be seen
from the above exhibit that after all no
injustice was done, for the original
statement of Mr. Swanson was \$165,071.24
short of the actual amount expended in
public education in the school year
ending July 31, 1904, or to put it differ-
ently, the items omitted in the 1904 ac-
count were about \$165,000 more in the ag-
gregate than the omitted expenditures
for higher education in 1885. Surely Mr.
Slem has no reason to complain on this
score.

But he further complains that in the
subsequent comparison made by us the
figures for 1885 were chosen instead of
those for 1886, "for the purpose," ac-
cording to Mr. Slem, of further com-
plicating the situation. The explanation
is simple. The original comparison
with 1885 was made by Mr. Swanson
under the impression that the Republicans
were in control in that year. But in point
of fact the Democratic party captured
the legislature in the fall of 1882 by an
overwhelming majority, and were in
full control in 1885, so that the Republi-
cans had no more to do with appropriat-
ing funds for schools in 1885 than in 1901.

But in 1883 the Republicans had control
of all departments of the State govern-
ment, and, of course, the comparison
should be with that year rather than with
the year the Democrats were in control.
In making that comparison we were
careful to give the Republicans credit
for everything, and we showed that they
appropriated for public education, in-
cluding the higher institutions, as well as
the public free schools, the sum of
\$1,504,908.22, whereas in 1904 the Demo-
crats appropriated for all such work
the sum of \$2,549,222.1, being nearly two
for one in favor of Democratic rule. Our
detailed statement also showed that
when the Republicans were in power in
1883, the University of Virginia, the V.
P. I., the V. M. I. and the Virginia school
for the deaf, dumb and blind got only
\$80,000, while the Virginia Normal and
Collegiate Institution, a school for
negroes at Petersburg, got \$150,000.
The statement speaks for itself.

Roosevelt and the Confederates.

President Roosevelt is still paying his
most affectionate respects to the Con-
federate soldiers as he journeys through
the South. He was most chivalrous in
his greetings of Mrs. Stonewall Jackson,
and touched her heart by paying a high
compliment to her grandson, Jackson
Christian, whom he appointed to a ca-
pital at West Point. In his speech at
Charlotte, he referred to the incident,
and declared that "we of this united
country have a right to challenge as a
part of the heritage of honor and glory
in each American, the remembrance of one
people, Americans who fought in the
Civil War, whether they wore the blue
or whether they wore the gray; the
valor shown alike by the men of the
North and of the men of the South as
they battled for the right as God gave
them to see the right, is now part of
what we, all of us, keep with pride." In
Richmond he said that next to the men
who wore the blue he honored of all
men those who wore the gray, and he
was not satisfied until he had gone out
to the Soldiers' Home and greeted the
veterans of that institution face to face.

Entertaining that view, holding in the
highest honor the soldiers of the Con-
federacy, looking upon them as men who
did their duty as they were given to do,
it is not surprising that Mr. Slem, who
is, as patriots and not as rebels and
traitors, we cannot but believe that Mr.
Roosevelt would like to bestow substan-
tial favors upon such of them as are
now disabled.

We know not what he has in mind, we
know not if he has anything of the sort
in mind, and we should be the last to
ask the Federal government to bestow
favors upon Confederate soldiers. But
we may go so far as to express the
opinion that any such recognition on the
part of the President of the United States
and the Federal government of our dis-
abled Confederates would do more than
all else to wipe out the last vestige of
sectional feeling in the South and make
the Southern people feel that in very
truth they are part and parcel of this
nation.

The Public Printing.

In line with some remarks which we
printed a few days ago in regard to
waste and extravagance in the Govern-
ment Printing Office, some recent com-
ments by Acting Public Printer Ricketts
are particularly interesting. Mr. Ricketts
says that during the past year or two
the natural decreases in the ranks of
government printers, caused by death
and resignation, have not been filled, and
that the policy of reducing the working
force will be steadily continued. He im-
plied that a number of employees would
have to go before very long, but declined
to give any figures. Mr. Ricketts is
strongly of the opinion that the Federal
printing plant ought to be run as care-
fully as a man would run a private
business enterprise of his own, and that
it is consequently impossible "to pay
good money to men and women whose
work is of no good to the government
and the office." He has prepared a full
report on the work of the office, em-
bodying his views as to how economy
may and should be effected, which he is
shortly to submit to the President. Mr.
Ricketts will no doubt be the most im-
portant witness to be summoned before the
Landis investigating committee, which
was scheduled to hold its first meeting
yesterday.

It is intimated, however, that there will
be a "storm of protest" if any reforms
are made which will require a reduction
of force. The government's employees
must be taken care of, no matter what
it costs the people. That is not business,
but it is politics.

Enforce the Law.

One thing that we admire especially
about President Roosevelt is that he
hates a sham, and he took occasion in
his speech at Raleigh to declare him-
self.

"The American people," said he, "abhor
a sham, and with this abhorrence I cordially
sympathize. Nothing is more in-
jurious from every standpoint than a
law which is merely sound and fury,
merely pretense, and not capable of work-
ing out tangible results. I hope to see
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